

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for collecting and associating affective information for at least one image in an imaging system, comprising the steps of:
 - a) displaying a digital image for viewing by a particular user;
 - b) automatically collecting affective information for the digital image as the particular user views the image; and
 - c) associating the affective information with the particular user.

2. The method of claim 1 further including the step of:
 - d) the particular user providing a personal identifier.

3. The method of claim 1 wherein the affective information and a user identifier are stored with the digital image in a digital image file

4. The method of claim 3 wherein the digital image file includes affective information and user identifiers for a plurality of users.

5. The method of claim 1 wherein the step of automatically collecting affective information includes monitoring the physiology of the user.

6. The method of claim 1 wherein the step of automatically collecting affective uses a video camera.

7. The method of claim 1 wherein the step of automatically collecting affective information includes determining the duration of time the user views each of the plurality of images.

8. The method of claim 1 wherein the step of automatically collecting affective information for the plurality of digital images includes monitoring the gaze of the user.

9. A method for providing affective information for images in an imaging system, comprising the steps of:

- a) sequentially displaying a plurality of digital images for viewing by a particular user;
- b) automatically collecting affective information for each of the plurality of digital images; and
- c) associating the affective information with the particular user.

10. The method of claim 9 wherein the affective information for each of the plurality of digital images is stored along with the digital image in separate digital image files, and the digital image files include a user identifier which identifies the particular user.

11. A system for providing affective information for images in an imaging system, comprising:

- a) a digital memory which stores a set of digital images;
- b) means for identifying a particular user;
- c) a display which sequentially displays the set of digital images for viewing by the particular user;
- d) a sensor for automatically measuring the particular user's reaction to the image; and
- e) a processor for processing the signal from the sensor to provide affective information for the set of digital images.

12. The system of claim 11 wherein the sensor is a video camera.

13. The system of claim 12 wherein the processor processes the signal from the video camera in order to determine the user's facial expression.

14. The system of claim 13 wherein the sensor measures the user's biometric response.

15. The system of claim 14 wherein the sensor measures the user's galvanic skin response.

16. The system of claim 11 wherein the system includes a pointing device, and the sensor is incorporated into the pointing device.

17. The system of claim 16 wherein the sensor measures the user's galvanic skin response.

18. The system of claim 11 wherein the affective information is stored in the digital memory.

19. The system of claim 11 wherein the affective information is stored with each digital image in a digital image file.

20. The system of claim 19 wherein the digital image file includes affective information and user identifiers for a plurality of users.

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